



July 8, 2021

The City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Via email

SUBJECT: Santa Ana and Irvine Climate Resolution Recommendations

Dear Mayor Sarmiento, Mayor Pro Tem Penaloza, Councilmember Bacerra, Councilmember Hernandez, Councilmember Lopez, Councilmember Mendoza and Councilmember Phan,

Thank you for your consideration of a climate resolution for Santa Ana. As you may know, **Santa Ana is the [most at-risk city](#) in the U.S. to climate impacts and has the second lowest degree of climate readiness.**

Last week, temperatures in Siberia reached an all-time high of 118 degrees, and 800 people in the Pacific Northwest died of extreme heat. It is sobering to consider the suffering that Santa Ana residents will experience in the coming extreme heat events, which science says will grow in intensity by nearly 50% in the next 10 years.

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, I encourage the council to adopt a resolution that gives staff direction to pursue programs that will bring Santa Ana the resources it needs to address the climate crisis, particularly Community Choice Energy.

On June 22, the Irvine City Council approved under consent a bold climate resolution, which was drafted by several UC Irvine scientists and based on the latest climate science.

Key elements of the Irvine climate resolution include:

- Develop a **legally-binding Climate Action & Adaptation Plan with enforceable measures and detailed deadlines** for science-based greenhouse gas reductions.
- Commitment to a **zero-carbon local economy consistent with 2030 targets based on the most recent climate science.**
- Commitment to ensure **environmental, economic, and social justice** in climate actions by **protecting communities that are especially vulnerable** to environmental damage.
- **Ambitious mode share targets** for commute trips made by biking, walking, and transit
- **100% renewable electricity** for residents and businesses through Community Choice Energy

The complete text of Irvine's resolution is below.

We hope that Santa Ana will adopt a climate resolution that puts the city on the path to aligning emissions goals with climate science to protect vulnerable communities from harm.

Community Choice can provide local control of energy programs and funding to implement climate adaptation measures to protect the most vulnerable members of your community while radically reducing emissions. The cities of Irvine, Fullerton, Buena Park and Huntington Beach all adopted Community Choice last year, and will launch the program for residents and businesses in 2022.

I am happy to provide more information on the benefits of Community Choice for Santa Ana, recent climate science and the elements of Irvine's climate resolution or Climate Action & Adaptation Plan.

Thank you for your leadership and please let me know when you may be available to discuss these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Ayn Craciun

Orange County Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign

June 9, 2021

https://irvine.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=68&event_id=1823&meta_id=116922

Irvine ACHIEVES: Resolution to Address Climate Change in Irvine's Environment, Values, and Energy Sources

Whereas, the City of Irvine is a national leader in sustainability and environmental protection;

Whereas, climate change is a growing threat to the environment and human well-being, including future generations of Irvine residents;

Whereas, Irvine is already suffering consequences linked to climate change, such as droughts, heat waves, and the recent Silverado and Bond wildfires;

Whereas, recent scientific evidence emphasizes the urgent need for greenhouse gas reductions to keep global warming below 2.7°F (1.5°C) and avoid further damage to the climate;

Whereas, climate experts now recommend that the State of California achieve carbon neutrality and cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2030;

Whereas, starting in 2021, Irvine will develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) that helps the City and California achieve their climate goals;

Whereas, Irvine is well-positioned to develop a strong CAAP due to its 1) economic and fiscal strength, 2) comprehensive Strategic Energy Plan, and 3) availability of local expertise from residents, universities, businesses, and nonprofits;

Whereas, well-crafted action to mitigate climate change not only reduces costs but provides economic benefits, such as energy cost savings, green jobs, technology development, and infrastructure improvements;

Whereas, a well-designed CAAP will generate health and other benefits from better air quality, water quality, transportation, and quality of life;

Whereas, the City of Irvine values equity and justice for all residents such that the costs and benefits for climate action are distributed fairly across demographic groups;

Whereas, the City of Irvine is a founding member of the Orange County Power Authority, a joint powers authority to promote energy choice and clean energy sources in electricity procurement;

Whereas buildings, transportation, and waste currently account for 56%, 33%, and 11%, respectively, of Irvine's city-wide greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas, the US EPA emphasizes waste source reduction, product reuse, and recycling to achieve zero waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions derived from waste;

ATTACHMENT 1

Green Ribbon Environmental Committee DRAFT - June 9, 2021

Now, therefore, be it resolved and ordered by the City Council of the City of Irvine, California, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Irvine will develop a legally binding CAAP with enforceable measures and detailed deadlines for science-based greenhouse gas reductions as recommended by climate experts.

Section 2. The City of Irvine will formalize its commitment to a zero-carbon local economy consistent with 2030 targets based on the most recent climate science.

Section 3. The City of Irvine commits to ensure environmental, economic, and social justice in its climate actions by actively seeking input from all community stakeholders; protecting communities that are especially vulnerable to environmental damage; and ensuring that actions in the Irvine CAAP will not harm other cities.

Section 4. The City of Irvine will develop new codes and standards requiring that all new buildings be zero-carbon and will work toward making its existing facilities energy efficient and zero-carbon. In addition, the City shall provide incentives to ensure that all existing buildings in its jurisdiction, both City- and privately-owned, become energy efficient and zero-carbon.

Section 5. The City of Irvine will develop ambitious targets for the percentage of commute trips that will be made by biking, walking, and transit (known as mode share targets) while identifying strategies to meet those targets consistent with SB 743; targets will be incorporated into the City's Strategic Active Transportation Plan. In addition, the City shall continue to plan, permit, and invest in transportation measures that reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas

emissions, including expanded protected bikeways; pedestrian corridors; zero-emission vehicles; accessible public transit; and zoning practices.

Section 6. The City of Irvine shall use carbon-free electricity in its operations and offer 100% renewable electricity to its residents and businesses through the Orange County Power Authority's Community Choice Energy service.

Section 7. The City of Irvine shall plan, permit, and build critical energy infrastructure, including electric vehicle charging networks; distribution grid upgrades to enable electrification of heating and transport; microgrids; and/or renewable fuel (e.g., hydrogen) transport and storage systems.

Section 8. The City of Irvine shall expand the innovation toolkit for carbon-free energy technologies, by supporting research, design, development, and early market deployment of new carbon-free energy sources, batteries, and other energy storage technologies.

Section 9. The City of Irvine will update its 2007 resolution on Zero Waste Principles with guidance from the Zero Waste International Alliance for all municipal operations, outreach, programs, and actions within the community:

“Zero Waste: The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.”

Section 10. The City of Irvine is dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and safety of its residents through climate adaptation. The City will implement actions that prepare residents for a changing climate and build resilience among populations at greatest risk from climate hazards. The City will integrate climate change preparedness planning across its operations to enhance readiness and monitoring of climate impacts; ensure that the community will be prepared for gradual changes and climate-related shocks, such as wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat events; use data to assess and monitor climate hazards and the implementation of adaptation projects; and design capital projects to reduce vulnerability to climate-related events and disasters.

Section 11. The City of Irvine shall support local businesses in addressing climate change and building a sustainable innovation economy that provides the goods and services necessary for achieving climate goals.